

Cambridgeshire Canadian Connections: a Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by

Mike Petty

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CAMBRIDGE MAN'S WARNING.

Another Cantab's Good Word.

A Cambridge man named Percy L. Wilson, who gives his parents' address as 4, Auckland-terrace, Cambridge, writes us on April 4th, 1912, from 27, Hermine-street, Montreal, Canada, on the subject of emigration to Canada. He takes a very gloomy view of the situation out there, says Canada is not at all what it is cracked up to be, that starvation and poverty is rife during the very severe winters, and suggests that many immigrants are misled by glowing and exaggerated accounts of the country and climate. His letter is as follows:—

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Being a Cambridge man and a frequent reader of your paper may I take the liberty of writing you with regard to misled immigrants here in Canada. It is customary, at the spring of the year, for Canada to be overstocked with immigrants. There have been numerous cases of starvation and poverty this winter; more so, in fact, than in previous years, and I think it is high time something should be done in the near future to prevent this happening every year.

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.
I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 06 21 c

Mr Tudor's circus have contrived week after week to place before their patrons a programme not entirely different from those preceding it. The last item on the programme is contributed by the Canadian troupe of comic and scientific skaters, one of the men representing a policeman of goodly proportions, his clothes being apparently inflated to bursting point! His many tumbles and his bounciness when on the ground do not fail to convulse the spectators

1903 03 12

There are a number of Canadian Farmers' Delegates offering to the depressed English agriculturist a chance in the farmer's El Dorado, Western Canada. James D Bambridge of Manitoba is visiting Cambridge to answer questions. The Canadian government gives a free grant of 160 acres of land to every emigrant, most of it prairie – virgin soil, rich in quality. It is not only farmers they want but all labouring classes, male and female, who can make \$250 a year

1903 03 13

Sir – I read in the CDN of the advantages for the farming man in Canada. I know it to be true; I went to London, Ontario and found it a beautiful, healthy and prosperous country, inhabited by intelligent, hospitable people. I am sure that any industrious Englishman will have a hearty welcome in the Dominion of Canada – W. Pitstow, James Street, Cambridge.

1903 04 17

On Thursday 23rd April a novel sight will be witnessed at Strange's Boat House, when Mr Tom Barton, the popular and world-renowned Log Roller, of Canada, will give his unique display of rolling a log of Bovril tins on the river. He will give £5 to anyone who will get on and stand on the log for three minutes. From the boat house Mr Barton, who is champion of the world in this particular line, will proceed through the locks and down the river for a mile or two.

1904 12 23

Dr Seaton's Animated Photographs and Concert Company visited Cambridge Guildhall on Boxing Day. The pictures include the latest Japanese and Russian war films, "Life in Canada" a grand film of 1,200 feet long, "The Kingdom of the Fairies" and a large variety of humorous subjects well worth witnessing. The performance included a high-class variety entertainment including Professor Carson, ventriloquist and mimic and Dr Seaton with his conjuring and plate-spinning.

1906 04 09

A fatality occurred at the portion of the river known as Paradise; two nurses from Addenbrooke's Hospital hired a Canadian canoe but it overturned and they were precipitated into the water. One clung to the boat and with the aid of a pair of horse reins was brought to the bank. A man pluckily jumped into the river after the other nurse but the depth of the water – about 15 feet – made it impossible for him to reach her. Eventually the clothing of the unfortunate lady was hooked but she had obviously succumbed. 06 04 09d

1906 07 05

Canadian emigration, p4

1906 07 14

Sir – I landed in Regina, Canada, in April 1903 with just eighteen shillings in my pocket and in the first year earned £36 16s including my board and lodgings. Last year by being my own master and doing garden work I earned £93 11s 8d. I would like to say to all the young men of Cambridgeshire that Western Canada is the place to improve their position. I am coming home next winter and will be glad to explain the conditions and advantages – E. Peachey 06 07 14a & b

1906 11 16

Mr & Mrs Mattinson of Bourn have learned of the death of their son, Thomas in Saskatoon, Canada. He left two-and-a-half years ago and worked in a lumber camp. A big, healthy fellow, he went to a

dentist and was under the influence of ethyl-chloride to permit of an operation, but the drug was too much for him and he succumbed. 06 11 16c

1907 03 28

Saffron Walden man in Canada – 07 03 28

1907 05 09

There has been a great increase in the number of people leaving Cambridgeshire for Canada. One agent, Alfred Suttle, tobacconist of Fitzroy Street, has booked 67 passengers since February. The ocean passage is from £5 10s (third class). The majority are skilled mechanics of the working class, railway labourers or domestic servants trying for their fortune in a land where wages are double what they are here. 07 05 09a

1907 06 22

This year's Midsummer Fair is the biggest for many years with large shows, roundabouts and switchbacks. A special feature is Charles Thurston's "Helter Skelter" and Canadian sport of Mat – tobogganning – should prove popular. Another attractive feature is Baker and Thurston's motor cars which race over a specially-prepared track at a speed of 50 miles an hour. 07 06 22

1907 09 20

Now that the price of coal is abnormally high and most articles in the household bill have become dearer, it is a matter of moment to the thrifty housewife that bread has risen to sixpence for a four-pound loaf. It is said that a portion of the Canadian wheat crop is frosted, the US crop is threshing out badly and the Russian crops may have failed. But fierce competition between soap manufacturers has brought down the price by a half-penny a tablet 07 09 20

1907 10 19

Last year there was hardly a punt available, and before that such a thing was not known in Cambridge. Yet this summer every boatyard possessed quite a flotilla of these comfortable craft, which were in great demand. Like golf, punting seems to have contributed in great measure to the humour of the nation and funny spectacles have not been entirely absent from our local ditch. Every dog has his day, and it is pretty evident the 'Canader' canoe has almost had his 07 10 19

1908 01 17

Canada has many miles of fertile land only awaiting the plough and the harrow, the farmer and the fruit grower to yield an abundance of food to the world and increase the wealth of those who can and will work. For labourers of the 'right stuff' there is plenty of work, good homes and good wages. There is no room for fellows who won't work but unlimited opportunities for men who will, meetings at Cambridge Guildhall and Willingham were told. Emigrants should contact Mr A. Suttle, 109 Fitzroy Street, the agent for Canada. 08 01 17d & e

1909 02 26

A lecture on farming in Canada, illustrated by a magic lantern, was given in Great Shelford by Mr Swain from Manitoba. Everything was done by machinery and labour was not so laborious as in England. It was only 4 1/2 days from England – just like taking a walk. The accommodation in crossing the Atlantic was immense, even the third-class passengers enjoyed all manner of games. They should not confuse Canada with America. They belonged to England and they were loyal (applause) CWN 09 02 26

1909 04 16

Mr Hickson of Foxton has received a letter from his four sons in Alberta, Canada. They are all well and happy and often go six miles across the snow on sledges. "Will went to the lake and caught as much pike and trout as he could carry home in his saddle bag. This makes a nice change from beef and pork and we also shot two prairie chickens. No boozing – the nearest pub is 25 miles away. When

we came out here two years ago we did not see anyone from one end of the week to the other. Now we are getting surrounded by neighbours", they write. 09 04 16

1909 05 28

Martin Caine left Swavesey for Canada, in March 1898. He writes home to say that Seattle streets swarm with gaily-dressed people, loaded street cars and autos flying hither and thither. Streets and stores all blaze with electric and gas light and dance halls, theatres, fruit stands, ice-cream parlours, hotels and saloons were crowded. Everywhere seemed alive and everybody gay and sporty. 09 05 28

1909 06 18

Canada. Britain's nearest overseas dominion. Britain's breadbasket. 160 acres Government land free for farming. Two years rent of an English farm will purchase an improved farm near prosperous settlements. Happy home and contentment. Profitable dairying. For full particulars apply to Superintendent of Canadian Emigration, Charing Cross, London: Advert. 09 06 18

1909 08 13

Harry Beaumont who went to Canada from Swavesey in 1907, has written to tell of a sad disaster. He acquired a piece of land near Nelson, British Columbia, and built a wooden hut. But while lighting a smoking fire in a tin to drive out mosquitoes a spark set some brushwood alight and the cabin was burnt down. He rescued a box containing his papers but everything else, including his carpentering tools, violin, camera and much-prized books have been destroyed. CWN 09 08 13

1910 03 04

By the death of Charles Stearn of Brookfields Cambridge loses one of its few Crimean veterans. He was born at Barrington and joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment in 1846 with whom he fought at the Alma where at least 1,400 men lost their lives. At Inkerman the Russians came right up to the bayonets and the Russian dead numbered six to each Englishman. After a couple of years in the Crimea the Regiment was sent off to Canada where their boat struck a rock off Newfoundland and went down in half an hour. He had his wife and youngest son on board and got them into the lifeboats with difficulty. Later he was landlord of the Seven Stars on Newmarket Road CWN 10 03 04j & k

1910 03 18

Canada talk 10 03 18e

1911 01 06

Mr F.O. Chapman, commissioned by the Canadian Government is making a short tour of local villages calling attention to the enormous and almost limitless field which the Dominion holds out to British labour. He opened his campaign at Harston where he told hearers that if they were doing well over here they would be foolish to go to Canada. But if there were any who were not receiving sufficient return for their energies they would do well to try their fortunes in the colonies. His lecture was illustrated by a very fine series of photographic views shown by means of the oxy-hydrogen limelight lantern apparatus 11 01 06

1911 09 22

William Edward Broadribb has been sent to Canada in the care of the Barnardo agency, by the Cottenham Habitation of the Young Helpers' League. They paid his expenses from collections made by the President, Mrs C. Hayden Cox at meetings held in her garden. The Habitation has only been in existence since June and now has 54 members. Members signed their names on a paper which is to be forwarded as a memento to William c/o Boys Distributing Home, Toronto. 11 09 22b

1911 12 15

The problem of rural housing means that it is not only to the towns our youths are flowing, but in ever-growing volume to the colonies. Most villages have given up some of its most promising young men to these dominions beyond the seas. It is not the idlers and the wastrels who are leaving: it is the independent men of spirit who should be the backbone of life in England. Yet a small-holder here,

working equally as hard as a Canadian emigrant, can obtain equal return for his labour combined with far greater home comforts and educational advantages for his children. For men prepared to work the old country is by no means played out yet. 11 12 15c

1911 12 15

Canadian emigration – J.O. Vinter's doubts - 11 12 15g

1912 01 05

'Canada, the land of opportunities and work for all' was the title of a lecture at Orwell by Mr F.O. Chapman accompanied by Mr Alfred Suttle, the well-known shipping agent of Fitzroy Street. He has parties leaving every week and those desirous of emigrating should secure their berths with him. The schoolroom was packed with one of the largest audiences ever seen in the village and the lecture, illustrated by beautiful photographic views, was heartily applauded at the close. Cities were springing up like mushrooms, the wondrous fertility of the soil made husbandry enormously remunerative and the Canadian Government offered any man 160 acres of land free. 12 01 05 & a

1912 04 05

Histon – Harry Ward emigrates Canada – 12 04 05e

1912 05 03

A Cambridge man, Percy Wilson, has written from Montreal painting a gloomy view of the situation in Canada. It is not what it is cracked up to be. Starvation and poverty is rife during the very severe winters and many immigrants are misled by glowing and exaggerated accounts of the country and climate. One is constantly told there are no poor in Canada. Yet the 'Morning Albertian' reports that the number of nameless graves of unknown people who have died of starvation would astonish the inhabitants. The truth is that the man who more or less starves all the time in Britain will more or less starve at times in Canada. People requiring more facts can write to Mr Wilson at his parent's address, 4 Auckland Terrace, Cambridge. 12 05 03j

1912 12 20

Canada, the land of freedom and light taxation. You cannot obtain a more desirable home than in the fertile valleys of New Brunswick. Only six days' sail from England. The ideal country for fruit, dairy and mixed farming, also for hunting and fishing. The rent of an English farm will purchase one outright here. Write to New Brunswick Government Office, Southampton Street, London - Advertisement. 12 12 20

1913 01 03

This has been one of the quietest and dullest Christmases ever known in Gt Gransden. It practically rained all the week. Two football matches were played on Christmas Day and Boxing Day against Everton and Sandy Reserves but the state of the ground made it more a matter of luck than play. The usual services were held in the parish church, which was nicely decorated. The carol singers paraded the village at midnight on Christmas Even and again on Christmas Day. No fewer than six Canadians have returned home to spend Christmas in their native village 13 01 03

1913 01 10

Canada markets

Bishop wants a church in Canada to be paid for by Holy Trinity Burwell – Herbert Hunt departs for Canada

1913 03 14

Isleham Belinda Aves leaves for Canada

1913 04 11

Oakington off to Canada

1913 06 13

Claims of Ontario, Canada

1913 10 24

Oakington butcher leaves for Canada

1914 06 26

A wife said her husband had been an engine driver and in 1904 went to Canada. He returned in 1913 and settled at Fenstanton on an income of 500 dollars from a farm in Manitoba. He accused her of spying on him and gave her a box on the ears. Then he got a stick and gave her a good thrashing. He was usually kind but when in drink used to threaten her. He said he had to be master in his own house.
1914 06 26 p8

1914 08 14

Harry Cottage of Linton has five sons on service. Two are members of the Regular Army and are with the British forces and two others old Army men. Being Reservists they have been called up to rejoin and left Linton last week. The fifth is a Territorial. At Cottenham Mrs Cundel is proud to have all her sons servicing. One is on a warship, another is returning from Canada, four are with their regiments and the seventh has just joined the colours. A sister is married to a blue-jacket serving in the war. The mother is making flannel garments for the soldiers 14 08 14

1914 08 14

Seven Brothers for the Front. Another instance of a whole family of brothers serving in the war has just come to notice. The family belongs to Cottenham. One brother is serving on a warship; another, who emigrated some time ago, is coming back with the Canadian contingent, four are already with their regiments, and the seventh has just left his employment with Messrs. Chivers and Sons, Histon, to join the colours. A sister is married to a bluejacket serving in the war. The mother, Mrs. Cundell, is naturally proud to give her sons for their country's service, and she herself is making flannel garments for the soldiers. – 1914 08 14 CIPof

1916 03 15

Ontario Military Hospital designed by C.F. Skipper, architect of Cambridge & erected by William Sindall; others on similar lines include First Eastern, Canadian Red Cross, Scottish National Red Cross Hospital Glasgow – 16 03 15b

1916 06 14

Heavy convoy of wounded from all parts of the Empire, Canada, Australia, New Zealand – 16 06 14c

1916 06 26

Milton Man's Noble Death. The death occurred in France between June 2 and 5 of Pte. Walter John Froment, third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Froment, of Milton. The deceased soldier, who met his death in a noble fashion - for he fell while dressing a fallen comrade's wounds - went to Canada in 1913. He joined the Medical section of the 2nd C.M.R. Battalion. 8th Infantry Brigade, and returning to England in October last, finished his training at Bramshott Camp, Surrey. He went to France at the beginning of this year. 16 06 28

1919 08 20

Improving land drainage; Board of Agriculture is about to lose the German prisoner labour used to good effect on agricultural drainage. Was lent to the Board free of cost and cannot be replaced. Work will be carried on by the local drainage authorities with rating powers. They worked in districts where there were no drainage authorities. Worked on Upper Ouse and tributaries, on Anglesey marshes, Blackwater and other Essex rivers. More will have to be done with machinery of Canadian type. River Ouse is badly shoaled and sections between Denver Sluice and Brandon Creek extremely congested. Preliminary had labour well in hand and three dredgers will soon be working. New Ouse Drainage Board will continue work – 19 08 20c

1918 08 20

Rev Herbert Charles Brown born in Sturton Street; was first man to drive a Co-op grocery van, was engine driver on GER and leader of People's Mission, Abbey Walk; moved to Canada – 19 08 20g

1926 07 14

Sir – Words fail to describe the condition of the river during the past week or so. As soon as the Long Vacation begins the edict goes forth – the weeds must be cut. They rise idly to the surface and drift at the mercy of the wind and stream. They collect along the banks, they form floating islands that attract all to the other flotsam and jetsam of the river. The rower is helpless against them, his oar must be laid aside. I vainly assayed to reach Baitsbite but had to tow my boat through a clinging mass of ribbon weed, Canadian pond weed, flannel weed etc. For more than three hours I carried on the unequal struggle but then walked home a sadder man – M.A., Cantab.

1929 02 05

The latest form of political propaganda, the Conservative's touring 'Talkifilm' is visiting Cambridge. The programme includes a speech by the Prime Minister which gives an uncanny effect of realism and a silent film showing the opening up of Canada. The van will visit Pound Hill, the Premier Hall Chesterton and Occupation Road, winding up at Cherryhinton Road corner

1932 01 21

The landlord of the Bridge Inn, Clayhithe told the Bankruptcy court that in 1909 he had emigrated to Alberta, Canada, taking a homestead of 160 acres. But his wife could not stand life on the prairie so she bought the Bridge Hotel and told him he could remain in Canada but she would stay there. He didn't want to lose his wife and family, so he returned. He knew nothing about the licensing trade and there had been no summer in the last two years, so he had lost money. One of the reasons for his failure was that he did not provide proper meals for customers. 32 01 21a

1933 02 11

An amazing criminal record in Canada and America, including safe blowing and the theft of bombs, and sentences among which was one of 30 years' imprisonment, were revealed against an Ashwell man who stood in the dock at Cambridge Police Court. He had been deported from Canada and America three times. The prisoner, a carpenter lodging in Norwich Street, was found with twelve £5 notes and a bunch of skeleton keys. He was sent to prison for three months. 33 02 11 & a

1936 11 25

An airman challenged the validity of his marriage to a Cambridge woman. He claimed that her former husband, a Cambridge taxi driver, had gone to Canada after getting into financial difficulties. But had still been alive when the two married at Kensington Register Office, though the woman told him she was a widow. As a result the airman had refused to live with her until she produced evidence of the first husband's death. The woman however petitioned for the restitution of her conjugational rights. She lost her case 36 11 25a

1937 07 07

Newmarket Dip Swimming Baths were robbed of money, cigarettes, two bottle openers, some chocolates and a key to the ladies' cloakroom. Police found a painter asleep in the waiting room of Six Mile Bottom railway station. He was in possession of the missing items together with an invoice that had been in the till. The man said he had been working at a fair in London and bought the cigarettes for a stall. He had taken a train to Ely, then walked to Newmarket where he'd found a brown paper parcel containing the items. He's been deported from Canada and had numerous convictions for theft. He was sentenced to 18 months hard labour 37 07 07b

1940 01 18

WVS blankets from Canada to Cambridge – photo – 40 01 18

1940 11 26

Canada ex-prime-minister at War Weapons exhibition – 40 11 26a

1942 06 26

18,000 miles. A correspondent (Says Watchman), writing of the Cambridge Independent Press, says: An old lady, in pre-war days, bought a copy of the "Independent" ' every week, and after reading it she loaned it to four neighbours. Later on the paper was sent to a son in Newcastle, who then forwarded it to a brother at Plymouth. From Plymouth it went to a brother in Melbourne, in Australia, who then sent it to a brother in Canada. The itinerary or programme was carried out weekly for several years, and according to the correspondent, each copy of the "Independent" must have travelled quite 18,000 miles. 42 06 26

1942 07 04

David's bookstall featured in Canadian radio broadcast, started 1886 now one of oldest on market – 42 07 04

1942 07 24

From Cowpuncher to Prebendary - F. A. Cardew was buried in Little Willingham churchyard last week, had an adventurous life. In his youth he was a cowpuncher in Canada, and later became a bush parson in Queensland. It was as Chaplain of St. George's English Church in Paris that he won fame. Serving in this capacity for 27 years, he did much for the English-speaking people in general and especially for the stage community. There were floral tributes from the Actors' Church Union and the Theatre Girls' Club. The British and French Governments recognised Mr. Cardew's work by making him an O.B.E. and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. He had been a Prebendary of St. Paul's since 1931. Prebendary Cardew married a daughter of the late Canon H. P. and Mrs. Stokes, and it was near the family grave that he was buried. Mrs Cardew and members of the family, together with several parishioners, were present.

1943 11 26

Decorated by the King. Mrs. Doggett, of 12 Granta Terrace Stapleford, and her son and Miss A. Fuller, who is serving in the A.T.S. had an exciting day on Tuesday, when they attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace to see Sgt George Doggett decorated by the King. Sgt Doggett won the British Empire Medal in Canada, where he has served for 2½ years 43 11 26

1944 09 15

Married 60 years.—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baker, of 111, Ross Street, Cambridge, celebrated their diamond wedding on Wednesday. They were married at Box, Wiltshire, on September 13, 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have seven children living out of ten, having lost one son in the last war. Two of their daughters live in Canada. There are 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. There are three grandsons serving in the Forces—two in the Navy and one in the Army. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baker enjoy good health, and are 80 and 79 respectively. Mrs. Baker was born at Box and Mr. Baker was born at Colerne, Wiltshire. For many years he did dairy work he served as bailiff to Mr. Sadler and during the years 1913 to 1919 at Manor Farm, Grantchester. Both have received many telegrams of congratulations, cards and presents. 44 09 15

1943 09 28

Awards for Courage.—The King has been pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of numerous operations against the enemy in which the undermentioned has invariably displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty: D.F.C. Flying Officer John Bramston Luard (15433), R.A.F.V.R., No. 635 Squadron. Flying Officer Luard was born in 1923 at Plymouth, Devon and his home is at Cambridge. He served in the A.T.C., enlisted in 1942, trained in Canada, and was commissioned in 1943. Flying Officer Leonard Harry Hancock (158418), R.A.F.V.R.. No. 482 Squadron. Flying Officer Hancock was born in 1921 at Liverpool, and his home is at Cambridge. He was educated at Cambridge and County High School and Jesus College, Cambridge. He enlisted in 1941 and was commissioned in 1943. 45 09 28

1946 03 19

Atom case trial; Sir Wallace Akers was appointed director to supervise nuclear research in Nov 1941. Work carried out by teams in various universities, one the Cavendish Laboratory. Dr Nunn May worked there and required to sign secrecy undertaking. Moved to Canada in 1942 – 46 03 19, 19a

1949 08 03

“Flying housewife”, Mrs Richarda Morrow-Tait, of Cambridge, complained of a Canadian transport department official’s alleged advice: “Go home and look after your baby”. She is trying to finish the last leg of her round the world flight, but the Canadian government has refused to let her fly over their territory

1950 01 10

The Christmas party of the Birdwood Club was held in the Round Church Hall. Founded at the beginning of the last war it extended to British members some of the hospitality so generously extended in Cambridge to those from other nationalities. There was a record attendance of over 200 members of all ages. Thanks to the usual generous pooling of rations and gift parcels from Australia, Canada, Rhodesia and British forces overseas, a bountiful tea was provided.

1952 11 26

One woman who says ‘No thank you’ to a mink coat is the wife of a St Neots mink farmer. He was one of a dozen mink farmers in Britain in 1945. Now he is one of 200 who are showing that the film stars’ fur can be bred here as well and cheaper than in Canada and America. Mink are usually sold in trios – one male and two females – at about £50 for dark brown, £65 for silver blue and £100 for the newly-fashionable white. The chances of growing a mink coat in your back garden are not much. You would need 100 skins and they would have to be perfectly matched.

1954 01 26

Messrs Vicom Ltd appealed for the development of Bourn aerodrome as a factory for light engineering. They were incorporated in 1951 to manufacture electronic equipment for high frequency radio for use in military aircraft. Their current contracts were for the Canadian and United States Air Forces and were of great importance. County planners say there is a danger of labour being attracted from the land in an area where it was scarce but only four of their 110 employees had ever had any connection with agriculture and a high proportion of the new employment could be female labour. The land was some of the poorest, there was a great deal of concrete on the site and it would take three years to produce anything. Bourn was a picturesque village with building sites for 77 houses and was an ideal place for the centre of employment.

1954 09 06

In the 1920s Canadian wheatfields were being attacked by insects. The use of spray was not satisfactory as thousands of square miles were involved & the obvious answer was a biological control, but what? Then in the fields near Cherry Hinton University scientists discovered a similar problem and noticed that a group of parasites accumulated keeping a large number of the pests in check. Great quantities of stubble were collected and stored; a number of women joined in sorting and packing and the resultant collection was shipped to Canada. When the parasites emerged they attacked the pests there. This is part of the research undertaken at Cambridge University, Dr G. Salt of King’s College told a meeting.

1955 08 18

An 80-year-old Cambridge man returned to his native city from which he left for Canada at the beginning of the century. His verdict: “I don’t like it so much today – it’s too crowded”. A.H. Hardwick called into the Little Rose in Trumpington Street alongside the tailoring and gown-making business which his father ran. He had 11 brothers and sisters, one of whom also emigrated to Canada. 55 08 18b

1961 10 06

A newly-built Canadian wooden house on the Girton Road is attractive visually. The exterior is finished in cedar shingles, the interior panelling and door frames are pine, the doors mahogany, the lounge has parana wood panelling and the ceilings are of plaster-board. Decorating costs have been cut to a minimum: the interior walls are papered, then covered with a thin film of plastic. It cost more than a comparable five-bedroomed house, but its upkeep costs far less. The new owners are delighted
61 10 06a

1963 05 31

At S.R. Barnes' factory on the outskirts of St Neots female employees turn out finely shaped briar pipes for man's enjoyment throughout the world. In the course of one year nimble fingers shape and polish over 180,000 pipes, many exported to the US and Canada. The firm was established in London in 1920 but with the War it was necessary to safeguard the stocks of briar and vulcanised rubber from enemy bombers so they moved here. Now they are planning to expand. 63 05 31

1963 07 02

Mr C.C. Thurston, Manager of Sindall Concrete Products has designed and built a decorative concrete fireplace for his home in Ditton Lane. Measuring 10ft 6in wide by six-feet high it embodies a number of new techniques. The bell-shaped hood has been made from ferro-concrete which is thin but strong. Canadian maple paper covers the back of the fireplace and even the lamp brackets have been made from concrete. The actual fire can be changed from traditional coal to electricity and has surrounds made of a special heat-resistant concrete 63 07 02

1972 12 27

An electronic design team lead by a Wendens Ambo man have produced a miniature power supply unit which could revolutionise whole fields of electrical equipment. Now with this single vital piece of equipment greatly reduced in size, the desk top computer becomes a reality. What Malcolm Murchall and his team of four engineers at Advance Industrial Electronics have done is cut down the size of the normal power supply unit to one-eighth of its present size. Already a number of large orders have been received with Japan, Australia and Canada all showing a strong interest in the new device

1974 12 31

The Earth site of the Tracked Hovercraft trials is up for sale. The main "hangar" area of 6,300 square feet of industrial floor space is on offer. The prototype train ran at 107 mph before being scrapped in February last year because the Government would not put in the £4 million necessary to finance the second stage of the project which had, at that time, cost £5 m. The Government gave the go-ahead last August for the dismantling of the three-mile test track. The technology is now being pursued in Japan, Western Germany, France & Canada

1984 06 06

Cambridge Science Park's Napp building has won a top award from the Concrete Society. The futuristic-looking white structure with glass infill has already attracted a great deal of interest and architects, surveyors and local schools have been around the building which was designed by Canadian architect, Arthur Erickson. 84 06 06 p8

1984 09 07

"The colonel" was one of Cambridge's best-known characters in the 50s and 60s, John Ingersol Turpin was the oldest of the brothers who ran a timber yard in Mill Road. It started in 1929 selling timber from Sweden, Russia and Canada but supplies stopped in 1939 so he started attending household sales. He became as well-known for his second-hand goods shop as his timber-selling; people often spoke of the wonderful bargains they bought for a few shillings, his daughter Margaret Lusher recalled 84 09 07

1985 12 13

Snowy Farr's name and face are instantly recognisable all over the world. The self-styled 'King of the Roads' in his outrageously colourful clothes and with his menagerie of animals has become a regular feature of Cambridge Market Place over the years. It was 1971 when Snowy, now 66, started collecting money for the blind. Over the years he had built up a collection of cats, mice, rabbits, birds and his faithful dog, Spot, which are all transported in a colourful home-made cart built round a bicycle. The former road sweeper has appeared on television, in newspapers and magazines as far away as Canada, Hong Kong and even Australia. 85 12 13a

1988 12 28

Production trials have started at the £4 million Haverhill Meat Products factory which has been designed to cater for an expected growth market in the 1990s. It will process and pack cooked ham and cooked shoulder. The factory is the largest pork abattoir in Europe and is owned by J. Sainsbury and Canada Packers of Ontario. The site, first developed in 1958, now employs 1,700 people. 88 12 28